

Message Text

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42

ORIGIN NEA-12

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DRAFTED BY NEA/IRN:BBMORTON:ML
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DOD/DSAA-TS - MR. VIOLETTE (DRAFT)

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R 211647Z DEC 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 248885

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, IR
SUBJECT: UNDERWATER DETECTION SYSTEM FOR IRAN: AGENT'S
FEE

1. TRACOR INC. MARINE SYSTEMS DIVISION, WHICH SPECIALIZES IN SONAR AND OTHER UNDERWATER SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT, HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY IRANIAN GROUP WHICH WISHES TO BE TRACOR REPRESENTATIVE IN IRAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN REGION. GROUP PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN PROJECT TO INSTALL UNDERWATER SURVEILLANCE AND VESSEL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS IN PERSIAN AND OMAN GULFS THAT WOULD PERMIT IIN TO HAVE EARLY WARNING OF SABOTEUR MISSIONS AGAINST COASTAL FACILITIES AND OF MOVES BY IRAQI NAVY AND TO KEEP TRACK OF SHIP MOVEMENTS IN GENERAL. ALSO INTERESTED IN TRACOR EXPERTISE IN AIRBORNE ECM.

2. GROUP THAT VISITED WASHINGTON CONSISTS OF EMILE AYSSEH, CITROEN FACTORY DIRECTOR IN TEHRAN, BAHMAN ATTAIE, MAJLIS DEPUTY AND BROTHER OF RADM ATTAIE, AND MONTE MOMTAHAN, SELF-DESCRIBED PLAYBOY ON IRAN CITROEN PAYROLL. GROUP WAS PUT IN CONTACT WITH TRACOR BY AIDCO, WHOSE TEHRAN REP, D.K. HARBISON, IS SOMEHOW CONNECTED WITH MOMTAHAN THROUGH FORMER'S CASINO OPERATION.

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3. WHEN TRACOR REP ORIGINALLY CALLED ON DEPT. TO INFORM US OF GROUP'S PLANNED VISIT AND INQUIRE ABOUT DOING BUSINESS WITH IRAN, WE WARNED OF AGENT FEE PROBLEM AND POINTED OUT MOW PREFERENCE FOR WORKING THROUGH FMS WHICH WOULD PRECLUDE INCLUSION OF AGENCIES UNLESS IDENTIFIED AND APPROVED IN ADVANCE BY MOW. FOLLOWING GROUP VISIT TRACOR REPS CALLED ON DEPT. TO SAY COMPANY IS INTERESTED IN AND COULD HANDLE THIS MAJOR PROJECT, VALUE OF WHICH MIGHT REACH DOLS 100 MILLION. HOWEVER, IT HAS CERTAIN QUALMS, MAINLY THAT GROUP TENDED TO DUCK SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT DETAILS WHILE TALKING OF ITS INFLUENCE IN HIGH PLACES. FURTHER, IT NOT CERTAIN WHETHER PROJECT IS ALREADY ON GOI WANT LIST OR MUST BE SOLD FROM BEGINNING. IT WONDERS WHETHER TAKING ON GROUP AS ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN IRAN WOULD COME INTO CONFLICT WITH MOW STRICTURE AGAINST AGENTS.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE ANYTHING EMBASSY CAN DISCREETLY DETERMINE ABOUT GROUP'S BONA FIDES AND ITS ACCEPTABILITY TO MOW AS REPRESENTATIVE OF US FIRM. RUSH

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